

MUFON

Mutual UFO Network

ARIZONA CHAPTER

Volume 8, Issue 7

The Truth is Out There ...

MUFON'S Mission is the Systematic Collection and Analysis of UFO Data
With the Ultimate Goal of Learning the Origin and Nature of the UFO Phenomenon.

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Meeting Date: July 28, 1999 7:30 p.m.

**Program: Video Presentation - "UFO Over North Scottsdale" and (if time allows)
"The KGB UFO Files," hosted by Roger Moore**

**Location: 5635 E. McDowell Road-National Guard Armory
(east of 52nd St. on McDowell, then north on Bushmaster Blvd. into Armory)**

Visit the MUFON-AZ Website at: <http://www.welcome.to/mufon-az>

DIRECTORS MESSAGE

For awhile now, things have been quiet. That is, until now. As some of you might know, we had a major sighting on the night of July 4th. The event was discussed on KTAR radio and then reported later by Channel 12 on two consecutive nights.

A man and his family in Scottsdale were headed out to see the local fireworks displays. In the process of this visit, he noticed an array of lights in a triangular formation. Having his camcorder handy, he shot approximately 3 1/2 minutes of video tape.

Channel 12 did a few checks at Sky Harbor and talked to the witness. The video tape shows these lights moving in a strange manner, making it more difficult to make an identification.

We will be showing this video in its entirety, uncut, at this month's meeting. An updated report on the findings will be discussed. Since these events occurred suddenly, we will be discussing this sighting at the meeting and answering questions on how things transpired. As of this writing, this case is being classified as a UFO until we can prove otherwise.

Alan Morey
State Director

July Book Sale and Raffle

The July raffle is featuring the movie "Deep Impact." This film stars Robert Duval and concerns the effects of what might happen to the planet if an asteroid crashes into it. The film concentrates more on the human aspect of the impending event, but still delivers on special effects. The film also stars Morgan Freeman.

Plus:

"Sightings," by Susan Michaels. This book is the companion piece to the television show concentrating on UFO and other paranormal subjects. A great companion piece to your library. Both items will be auctioned off together for only \$1.00 dollar ticket.



MEDIA WATCH

In the interest of keeping the UFO topic before the public, the following is a list of programs on the subject recently aired via television, radio and newspaper in recent weeks. We will attempt to list programs ahead of time whenever possible; however, we are not always notified of programs until it is too late to publish them in the Newsletter in time for members to view, hear, or read them. In the case of TV and radio programs you may have missed, ask at MUFON-AZ meetings to see if anyone has taped them and would be willing to share.

If you find UFO-related television or radio programs we have not listed, please call Teri Acton at 480/844-8097 and leave a message containing the title, day, time, whether TV or radio, and the channel where the program can be found.

Always be sure to check current TV listings as times and channels sometimes change!

Bufo Calvin lists TV programs of UFO & related subjects, which we try to pass along in this newsletter when we receive them in time. If you would like to receive them from Bufo Calvin directly via e-mail, e-mail him at BufoCalvin@aol.com and ask him to send you the list via e-mail.

WEEKLY RADIO PROGRAMS:

DREAMLAND KFYI Radio 910 AM, Sunday evenings, 8:00 p.m. - Art Bell hosts this interesting radio program. The program is aired on the following stations in other cities in Arizona: Globe: 1240 AM; Safford: 1230 AM; Tucson: 1400 AM; Kingman: 1230 AM; Yuma: 560 AM; and Flagstaff: 600 AM. Art also hosts "Coast to Coast" weeknights at 11:00 p.m. and often features UFO related guests and/or topics. A Dreamland repeat is also broadcast at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday's.

SPACECRAFT NEWS with Franklin Carter, Monday's at 10:00 a.m. on KFNX radio (1100 AM).

UFO LIVE with Dr. Duncan Bowen, Tuesday's at 11:00 p.m. on KFNX radio (1100 AM).

FRACTAL DIMENSIONS with Dr. Simeon Hein, Thursday's at 5:00 p.m. on KFNX radio (1100 AM).

MYSTERIES AROUND US KTAR Radio (620 AM), 10:00 p.m. Sunday, hosted by

Frank Baranowski, a well-known hypno-therapist specializing in regression.

WEEKLY TV PROGRAMS:

X FILES Sunday's at 8:00 p.m., Channel 10; Weeknights at 9:00 p.m., Channel 30, FX (cable).

SIGHTINGS Wednesday's, 8:00 p.m., SciFi Channel (cable).

AFTER MIDNIGHT Thursday's at midnight on Channel 22.

Calendar

Pima County Chapter: Meetings held at Wilmot Library, 530 N. Wilmot, Tucson. Contact George Parks for more information 520/742-6651.

Pinal County Chapter: Meetings held every second Saturday of each month at Meghans Restaurant, located at 1202 E. Florence (opposite of K-Mart corner) at 1:00 p.m. Contact Ken Kerber for more information 520/836-1185.

Yuma County Chapter: Meetings are quarterly. Call Richard King for more information 520/747-7787.

Maricopa County Chapter: Wednesday, July 28, 1999; usual place and time. Admission \$3.00 for members and \$5.00 for non-members.

Experiencer's Meeting: On hiatus until September 20, 1999. For information, call Dr. Ruth Hover at 837-0446.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Advertise in the MUFON-AZ Newsletter!! Ads up to three lines long are \$5.00; business card sized ads are \$10.00 (we can reproduce your business card as the ad). Call Ruth Hover for prices on larger ads. Submit your ad and payment by the first of the month to have it appear in that month's newsletter issue.

ARIZONA SIGHTINGS LIST



Don't forget to get your updated copy of "Arizona Sightings 1979-1998" - a wonderful compilation by our own Dimitri "Jim" Ossipov. For many years, Dimitri has worked on this comprehensive list, and it's a great addition to everyone's UFO library. The Sightings List can be purchased at the monthly meeting, or you can call Tom Taylor at 967-6265 to order your copy today!



ARTICLE SUBMISSION

If you have any articles or letters you would like to submit for your newsletter, please call Teri Acton at 480/844-8097. Suggestions/articles can also be e-mailed to teri.acton@asu.edu. Your ideas and suggestions are welcomed and appreciated!

MUFON MEMBERSHIP BADGES

Orders are being taken for your MUFON Membership Badges. These are the 1-3" x 3" blue badges with 3 lines and white print listing your name on the first line, "Arizona MUFON" on the second line, and a title or phrase such as "The Truth is Out There" on the third line. The cost is \$4.50 each, unless we have enough orders to get a price break, and then they'll be less. See the sign-up sheet in the front lobby at the meeting. You can also fax your order to Ruth and Harry at 602/837-0094 or send the order via mail to: Ruth and Harry Hover, 16714 E. Gunsight, #155, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268. For additional information, please contact the Hovers at 480-837-0446.

MUFON to Host UFO Awareness Display at Chris-Town Mall

MUFON will again be hosting its UFO awareness display at Chris-Town Mall on August 20, 21 and 22nd. To participate, you must be a MUFON member. The awareness display is an annual event that educates and promotes the mission of MUFON. It is also a great recruitment tool for prospective new members.

There will be a sign-up sheet located at the raffle table for the next two meetings.

If you are interested in volunteering at the awareness display, please contact Alan Morey at 425-9976, Tom Taylor at 967-6265 or Jim Kelly at 945-5582.

Special Discounts on Books Available for MUFON Members

Hampton Roads Publishing Company has sent some samples of their books. They have a fantastic selection, ranging from UFOs to alternative medicine. Lakshmi Bertram, Marketing Associate of Special Sales, has been gracious to offer a discount of 46% to MUFON members. The contact number is 800-766-8009 to order selections or to obtain a catalog.

Alan Morey
State Director

MUFON Arizona Newsletter Now Offers Family Subscription Rate

Due to popular demand, your MUFON-AZ Newsletter now offers a special Family membership subscription rate of just \$25.00 per year!

Individual membership subscription rates are \$15.00 per year.

If you are interested in subscribing, please send your payment to Tom Taylor, 1433 W. Huntington, Tempe, AZ 85282. Please make your check payable to Tom. Thank you for your support!

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM DR. ROGER LEIR

I would like to take this opportunity to inform all the members of Ventura-Santa Barbara MUFON, my very good friends and colleagues of the current status of my health.

As most of you know, I was hospitalized a couple of weeks ago with a heart attack. This was most probably related to undue stress applied to me from a number of factors including problems with the medical board, which magically happened after my book hit the market. In addition I had a number of attacks on me and my work placed on the Internet. This, coupled with the severance of my partnership with Derrel Sims, applied enough pressure to raise my blood pressure and induce a clogging of three of my grafts from a previous heart surgery in 1985.

After discharge from the hospital I spent a week home with my loving wife and daughter receiving the finest care it was possible to receive. I am now back in the office and so far getting along quite well. I am taking a host of cardiac medications and trying to follow my Dr.'s advice.

I want to thank every one of you who sent your prayers, good wishes, cards, letters and monetary contributions. In addition I want to thank all of you who passed the word about my dire financial straits and lack of medical insurance.

I have every intent of continuing the research on a larger scale than ever before. Every bit of information that I glean will be given directly to the unfortunate victims of the abduction phenomenon. The more professionals I can involve will help to insure that this work will be carried on in the event anything happens to me. I have a research proposal in to Joe Firmage. I believe he is a dedicated man and hope he will respond favorably. You all can help if you have the time. Please write Joe a short letter and tell him your views of the research I have done to produce actual physical evidence relating to the alien abduction phenomenon. His address is readily available on the net.

Good luck and thank you all again. I hope to see you at the next meeting.

Dr. Roger Leir
Section Director
Ventura-Santa Barbara MUFON

Kevin Randle Booked for October Meeting!

MUFON AZ is proud to announce that this noted author will be lecturing this fall at the October meeting! First of all I am sure that all of you are wondering how we could schedule one of the most sought after guests in the UFO Community. Well, it's simple. The overwhelming response of our members in the financial support of the MUFON Bookstore has helped our organization become more financially stable in recent months. All of the officers of MUFON AZ want to personally thank each member that attended the meetings, as well as each member that bought any item or any raffle ticket to help our cause. Your financial support is needed now more than ever. The next few meetings are vital to the survival of MUFON AZ. So I am asking all of our members to do the following:

1. Attend as many of the meetings as possible. Attendance is critical in meeting the financial needs of our monthly budget. Did you know that our basic expenses each month exceed \$200.00! If you can't attend the meetings, please feel free to send a donation to Tom Taylor, our MUFON treasurer. Send checks or money orders to:
2. When attending the meeting please feel free to purchase any items from our bookstore. If you can't find anything to your liking, buy raffle tickets. We have been offering some great prizes the last few months.

Tom Taylor
1433 W. Huntington Dr.
Tempe, AZ 85282

The vision of MUFON is to educate the public on the UFO phenomenon. If you believe in the mission statement of the organization and have faith in your beliefs in what MUFON AZ is trying to accomplish, please dig deep and support the organization as much as you can.

Jim Kelly
Maricopa County Section Director
MUFON AZ

Current UFO Cases and Sightings: Local and Worldwide

By Jim Kelly

UFO'S in the North Bordering on the Horrific

A SPATE of UFO sightings has been reported in south Armagh, according to the British UFO Research Association.

Residents in the area say they are becoming increasingly worried about UFO activity along the border and witnesses to incidents have been called on to come forward.

British army activity has been blamed for previous so-called sightings, but local people say these Unidentified Flying Objects are different from anything seen before.

The most recent sighting took place just over a month ago in the Dromintee area in daylight when a local man spotted a brightly-lit object in his rearview mirror.

The object apparently maintained a steady speed and height behind him before moving up on the car's left side and then in and out of trees at speed. It is then said to have disappeared from view and the man, who reported the sighting, has claimed that it could not have been an army helicopter.

Other sightings have been reported across south Armagh and also in the Canal Street area of Armagh city.

A spokesman for the British UFO research Association, Andrew Allen, said there had been numerous reports of UFOs in the area in recent months and added that the most serious incident involved the horrific mutilation of a cow last year.

He said: "There have been a lot of sightings of UFOs in south Armagh this past while. The people in this area are used to military activity so it is unlikely to be that and witnesses to events swear that the objects are like nothing they have seen before.

"Some of these UFOs, including the one in Dromintee, were seen in daylight so these people could not be mistaken. I would ask all those who believe they have seen UFOs to come forward and report them because a number of witnesses have yet to come to me."

Mr. Allen referred to an incident involving a mutilated cow in the Camlough area to show how serious the situation had become. The cow was allegedly discovered butchered and a number of its internal organs appeared to have been removed in a highly sensitive surgical operation. The animal was found at a picnic area a mile south of Ballymalack, outside Camlough, at a time of numerous reports of UFOs and mysterious unmarked black helicopters.

Satellite Likely Cause of UFO Sighting

Tuesday, April 27, 1999- Police believe the re-entry of a satellite into the earth's atmosphere is responsible for reports of a flaming object in the sky along the east coast of Australia on Monday night.

Police and a national UFO hotline received several reports up and down the east coast of a possible meteorite crashing to earth.

They say the reports included one from two men who followed the object's path until it crashed into bushland near Mittagong in the southern highlands of New South Wales around eight o'clock.

Police say the sighting was the controlled entry of a satellite, which crashed into the sea 500 kilometers off the coast.

Search Fails to Find Clues to UFO

A Gladstone police search has failed to find any trace of an object seen falling from the sky near Calliope.

There were several reports of sightings of objects in the sky last night, including a truck driver who says he saw a flaming object move across the sky near Gin Gin, west of Bundaberg.

One of the sightings was made by a Burnett resident, Margaret Sheppard.

"It was just this brilliant green object that lit up the sky and came from the north and landed in the area west of Kingaroy," she said. "When it was gone, poof, dark the lights went out again."

STRANGE UFO CAPTURED ON RADAR RADAR NORTH OF SCOTLAND

Report and Witness Interview L.

Dave Ledger

UFO Scotland

Courtesy of Skywatch International

Date: Winter 1964-1965

Location: RAF Saxa Vord, Shetland Isles, Scotland.

Source: Retired RAF personnel.

Name withheld at witnesses request.

Before I proceed to report on this significant case, I would personally like to thank the witness involved, for showing his willingness and courage in coming forward after 35 years to discuss and log this extraordinary case report with UFO Scotland. His willingness to discuss the sighting and the relevant details associated, is to be commended and we hope that it may set an example for other ex-servicemen to follow.

REPORT: During the Month of May 1999, I was lucky enough to have the opportunity of speaking with (for the record) an ex RAF member who was once based at the Early Warning Radar tracking station at RAF Saxa Vord in the extreme North of Scotland. This meeting had been set up by my father who is also ex RAF (retired) and had happened to meet my source via social circles who in turn, agreed to speak with me so that I may document the event.

During the winter of 1964-1965 at the location of Scotland's northern most Early Warning radar tracking station, RAF Saxa Vord in the Shetland Isles, a serious and relatively unknown incident took place which was witnessed by ground Radar personnel who were on duty at the time. The case was also documented and recorded by the Royal Air Force themselves.

My source reports: Radar Operators observed a stationary return on the early warning radar which gained their interest and curiosity. The object was observed sitting motionless at a height of approximately 20,000 feet. (I asked him how the height of the return was

established and he informed me that it was obtained by using the radar's height finder (the system.) The return was a very strong signal which showed up clearly on the radar as a real structured object, but what caused immediate concern was the fact that this particular object could not be readily identified by the personnel on duty.

Seeing as this was during the cold war, the personnel had to assume that this anomalous radar return was an incoming hostile as it was now slowly approaching toward the North coast of Scotland from a North Easterly direction. There was no reply from the IFF (which was to inform them if the incoming was friend or foe) so the unknown was treated by the on duty personnel as if it were a hostile, possibly Russian. For an unspecified amount of time, the unknown object slowly continued to approach toward the Scottish coast. A few minutes followed, then a QRA alert was sent to RAF Leuchars in Fife, who in a scrambled 2 English Electric Lightnings (which were the interceptor aircraft at that time) to intercept and identify the incoming threat. RAF Leuchars was the nearest station at this time to deal with such a request. NOTE: I did ask my source the initial range and distance from the coast, that the radar detected the anomaly from, but he could not answer me due to the fact that it may be giving away confidential and secret information, which we do respect here at UFO Scotland. Reporting is one thing but spilling official secrets is not our aim. It has to be said that this range information will also be well outdated by now anyway. The two Lightnings were vectored, via ground controllers, towards the incoming bogey but as they approached the locale of the unknown object, my source hinted that the object seemed to become aware of this fact and what happened next surprised them all. The object just proceeded to go vertical, rapidly, directly up and up until it was lost on the height finder on the radar system. I then asked the witness at what height the height finder could lose track, and he reported that it was about 100,000 feet. Significant point: It is a well known fact that no aircraft on this planet at that time or during present day, had or have the capabilities of performing these types of maneuvers captured on Radar or could even climb to that altitude, period.

The witness then told me that he believed that the anomaly was definitely exhibiting intelligent control and was in his honest opinion "Not one of ours." At one point, when the unknown was witnessed by the radar operators to go vertical instantaneously, the two operators just looked at each other, shook their heads and said "NO." It was further established during the interview that Ground Radar returns were out of the question seeing as this incident took place over the North Sea and not over land.

The case was apparently logged through the official channels and apparently, the scrambled Lightnings got nowhere near their targets. The whole incident still remains unexplained to date and the witness informed me that this particular incident was the only unexplained event that he had ever witnessed during his career and that he did feel that it should be logged as an important sighting pertaining to UFO research and our search for the "REAL TRUTH."

Technical details: The Radar equipment that the anomaly was recorded and tracked on was known as a Type 84 Radar System and a Type 13 height finder.

This particular case has never been heard of publicly, at least to my knowledge, although I personally feel that it should be logged as a very significant report, from a very credible source, which supports the case that we do indeed have unidentified objects penetrating our air defenses on a regular basis and more importantly: The Authorities do know about it, but they don't tell!

DA Investigating Recent Cow Deaths

By Brendan Smith
Albuquerque Journal

No one is sure what killed a calf and two cows last month on the Tres Ritos Ranch north of Questa, but ranch manager Tom Reed definitely finds the deaths unusual.

"I come up with more questions than answers," Reed said Monday. "I wouldn't be surprised if we never do find out who or what is doing this. It may be something totally unexpected."

The last cow was found dead May 23 in a pasture near where a dead calf and a dead cow were found earlier in the month, Reed said. The last cow had its udder cleanly cut off and a deep hole with smoothly cut edges gouged into its neck, Reed said. Each of the three animals had unexplained wounds and missing body parts, Reed said.

The 8th Judicial District Attorney's Office takes cattle mutilations seriously, although no one has ever been charged with the crime, Assistant District Attorney John Day said. The judicial district covers Taos, Colfax and Union counties.

"If someone is up there killing livestock that's a crime," Day said Tuesday. "Whether (cattle mutilations) are a secret government project or aliens, that's out of my realm."

Dozens of reported cattle mutilations in northern New Mexico dating back to the 1970s have spawned theories about alien sent to Earth to slice up cows. Reed said he couldn't explain the three recent deaths from his herd of 40 cattle, but he isn't convinced aliens cut up his cattle.

"I would lean more to the government cults or something like that. I really don't know anything. I guess that's just speculation," he said. "If the government isn't involved, I think they're covering up."

Gabe Valdez, a retired State Police officer who has investigated cattle mutilations near Dulce, said he is working with the District Attorney's office in investigating the recent cattle deaths on Tres Ritos Ranch.

Valdez, who lives in Albuquerque, is now a field investigator for the National Institute for Discovery Science, a private organization that has volunteered to pay for necropsies and lab tests on the dead cattle.

The institute, based in Las Vegas, Nevada, researches cattle mutilations, UFOs and reported encounters with aliens. The organization is funded entirely by a Las Vegas entrepreneur who is interested in the paranormal field, said Colm Kelleher, the institute's deputy administrator.

Reed found the first dead cow on May 4 in a pasture on the 3,200-acre Tres Ritos Ranch. The cow's right eye and right ear were missing with a circular cut around the right ear extending down the neck, Reed said.

"There were no tracks where she was injured or hurting and dragged herself around," Reed said. "She was just there."

The calf was found dead four days later in the same area. The calf's right eye and tongue were missing and the genital area had been cut open, Reed said. The calf's rump also was missing but Reed thinks birds may have eaten it.

Valdez said he saw flipped cow patties around the third dead cow that may have been caused by "turbulence," but Valdez didn't know if the turbulence was from an alien spaceship.

"It was an unexplained animal death," Valdez said. "Don't ask me what I think. I don't know who's doing it."

The New Mexico Livestock Board investigated about 30 cattle mutilations in northern New Mexico in 1993 and 1994, including one mutilated cow reported by Reed at the Tres Ritos Ranch in May 1994.

The Livestock Board concluded most of the 1993-94 cattle mutilations were not caused by predators or scavengers. An earlier investigation by the board found there was "possible involvement of clandestine Satanic groups."

Predators or scavengers were blamed for similar cattle mutilations from the 1970s investigated in 1980 by an ex-FBI agent for the 1st Judicial District Attorney in Santa Fe.

The Las Vegas institute hasn't determined what caused the recent deaths of the cows on Tres Ritos Ranch. The institute has researched about a dozen unexplained cattle deaths, most in New Mexico or Utah, over the past three years, Kelleher said.

After conducting necropsies and lab tests, some of those cattle deaths were determined to be caused by infectious disease, accidental poisoning from insecticides, or the work of predators or scavengers, Kelleher said.

Other cases of cattle mutilations have proved more mysterious.

"There are a small handful for which there are no logical explanations," Kelleher said.

SWISS AIR Reports UFO

On August 9, 1997, about 17:07 eastern daylight time, the flight crew of a Boeing 747-300, Swiss registration HB-IGF, and operated by Swissair as flight 127, reported an unusual sighting while in cruise flight at 23,000 feet (FL230) over New York, New York.

The airplane was not damaged, and there were no injuries to the occupants. Flight 127, which had departed from Philadelphia International Airport, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was conducted under 14 CFR Part 129, and was operated in visual meteorological conditions on an instrument flight rules (IFR) flight plan. Flight 127 was en-route to Boston, Massachusetts when the sighting was made.

According to a report from a Safety Board Air Traffic Control investigator: "Swiss Air 127 was in contact with the Danbury Sector of the Boston ARTCC at Flight Level 230. Voice communications with Swiss Air 127 were of a routine nature until 2107 UTC, when the flight transmitted, '...sir, I don't know what it was, but it just over flew like a couple of hundred feet above us. I don't know if it was a rocket or whatever, but incredibly fast opposite direction.' The controller asked, 'In the opposite direction?' Swiss Air 127 replied, 'yes sir, and the time was 21:07, it was too fast to be an airplane.' The controller then asked another flight, Eastern 986 if they saw anything like a missile in the area, 'perhaps off your right.' They replied that they would take a good look, but 'didn't think that if it's going that fast they probably won't get a chance. They had just seen Swiss Air go by a little bit ago.'

"Swiss Air 127 then reported that they had no warning, & that the object was going way too fast. The controller then asked how far above Swiss Air 127 it was. Swiss Air 127 replied, 'it was right over us, right above, opposite direction, and, and I don't know, 2,3,4 hundred feet above. All that I can tell, 127, is that the three of us saw a light object, it was white, and very fast.'

"The flight was then cleared direct to Providence, and told to reduce speed to 300 knots before contacting the next sector."

Interviews were conducted with the captain and first officer on August 10, 1997. The flight engineer had not observed the object and was not interviewed. The captain reported: The flight was abeam of John F. Kennedy Airport, Jamaica, New York, at 21:06, and proceeding direct to RAMPART intersection when the event occurred. The captain was making a public address to the passengers in the cabin when he looked ahead and saw a white object. He saw it for less than a second, and the only movement he could discern was opposite his flight track. He did not observe any wings, and was not sure it was an aircraft. He thought it was cylindrical in shape. He had never been so close to other traffic before. He was not certain whether it was stationary or was moving opposite of the flight. It passed over the cockpit slightly right of centerline. If it had been any lower, it would have hit the aircraft. As the object passed by, there was no noise, no wake turbulence, and no disruption or anomalies with any of the flight or engine instruments. At the time of the event, the airplane was flying on a heading of 060 degrees, at 340 KIAS, at FL230. It was clear with cumulus nimbus clouds to the west. The sun was behind them. There was no TCAS warning. In addition, there was no exhaust or smoke, no fire, and he could not accurately discern its size. The captain reported his total time as 15,000 + flight hours. He had never seen a missile in flight. The first officer reported: The flight was cruising at FL230. The captain was making a PA to the cabin. The first officer was putting on his headset, and bent over to adjust the volume. As he looked up he saw the object. It passed overhead very quickly. It was close enough that he ducked his head because he thought it would hit them. He said it was white and had a round shape. There was no smoke or fire visible from the object. He thought it passed about 100 to 200 feet above the airplane and between the right side of the fuselage and the number 3 engine. There was no drift, and it appeared to be flying exactly opposite of the aircraft. No actual movement was discerned, and no markings were visible. The object appeared to be the size of a thumbnail held at an arms length. The engine indications were steady, and the visibility was unlimited. The sun was behind the airplane. The first officer reported that he had previously encountered a weather balloon over Italy, and the object did not look like the balloon.

The first officer reported his total time as 7,500 hours, all civil. He has seen missile shots from the ground.

A check with a Safety Board meteorologist revealed the following: WEATHER BALLOONS * Weather balloons are launched twice a day. * The normal times are 1100 UTC, and 2300 UTC, plus or minus 15 minutes. * The time to reach 23,000 feet is normally about 25 to 28 minutes. Sounding balloons are light tan or brownish in color. * PIBAL (used for wind observations) and Ceiling Balloons are black and red in color. * The closest launch point to the JFK was Upton, New York, about 43 NM east of JFK on a bearing of 085 magnetic. A check of winds aloft data from Upton, New York, revealed the following: Date Time Altitude Velocity Direction Temperature 9 Aug 20:12Z 500 MB 35 kts 350 degrees -14 C 10 Aug 12Z 500 MB 15 kts 360 degrees -12 C 9Aug 00Z 400 MB 20 kts 330 degrees -22 C 10 Aug 00Z 400 MB 20 kts 330 degrees -22C.

Radar data was supplied by the Boston Air Traffic Control Center (ARTCC), in the TAP format. The data contained both secondary targets (beacon), and primary targets (non-beacon). The data was plotted and Swissair Flight 127 was identified. There was no evidence of an opposite direction target, either beacon or non-beacon.

A Star...or a UFO?

What was the mysterious object flying playfully over Phoenix eight years ago? An Arizona resident shares the experience

By I. K. Alcott

Eight years ago this June, in 1991, I was driving down into the Valley on the Beeline from having dropped my mother off at her home in the White Mountains; my 5-year old grandson was with me. While we were still in the hills just before the flat valley, twilight was just about setting in. The sky was extremely clear, not a cloud to be seen anywhere.

It was still light enough that the stars could not be seen--the only celestial objects visible were a crescent moon with the two

horns facing north, and the planet Venus, near the cusp of the lower horn (the phenomenon reoccurred the first week in June 1999, again in the northwest sky). As we looked at the moon and its sometime companion, another object suddenly popped into view, a star at the other side of the lower cusp, about one order of magnitude less bright than Venus. The crescent moon and Venus are a memorable sight that doesn't come about that often. But two stars? No, thought I, this is not a star, nor a planet--this event does not happen. It has to be an airplane, and sunlight of the setting sun is bouncing off the fuselage to create a star-like image. And detecting no motion was because our relative motions were juxtaposed in such a way that it seemed it was not moving. Sooner or later I knew it would resolve itself into a moving object and I'd be able to see either a shape or flashing green and red lights. But no, it remained a stationary star with no discernible color.

In the meantime, there did happen to be another "object" in the south-southeastern sky, a contrail. I used this opportunity for lecturing my little boy about how there was no wind in the sky that day because the contrail was undispersed; with no jet anywhere, the sky had to have been very, very still for the trail to have remained that long. I told him that it would soon disappear.

It did not disappear. Instead it moved towards the southern horizon and was becoming more and more dense.

Our attention was therefore divided between the beautiful crescent moon and its two companions, and the contrail. After a time, about half an hour from the time that we first saw it, the contrail had by now resolved itself into a significant cloudbank on the southern horizon. This was extremely peculiar but I rationalized that it must have had to do with particulate matter in the original contrail which acted as seed for the forming of a condensing cloud, and a high altitude current of air carried it to the horizon.

By this time we were in the valley, and with our eye on the moon, suddenly the smaller object flashed into a cruciform, or X-shape. "Aha," I thought, "it flashed, and the form is more or less that of an airplane. Now we will see it move and it will become the airplane I know it is."

But no, it collapsed back into a star-like object and was still again for a minute. Suddenly, it darted away from its apparent position near the moon and made its way south.

The time is now about 7:30 p.m. I stopped the car and we watched the critter zip along a straight line, this star-like object, straight for the cloudbank, which was now dense and white and billowy. It popped into the cloud. I thought, that is the last we'll see of that. No, here it comes again, it pops out to a short way from the cloud. Then in again. Then out. Then in again. Then out, but this time through the top of the cloud, then in again. Then out again from the previous place and back across the Valley to the north, traversing the same locus, where it disappeared into the field of stars which was now visible.

The time it took to traverse the valley, each way, was about one minute, with constant velocity. Its altitude, after dislodging itself from the vicinity of the moon, I would gauge at possibly one thousand to fifteen hundred feet from the Valley floor--I could see it against the sky, above the western horizon, although in both directions it was undoubtedly traversing parallel to approximately the Central Corridor of Phoenix. Also, its apparent trajectory of travel was absolutely straight-line both ways, an economy of motion that could have been measured with a ruler, and the appearance at the top of the cloud was perpendicular to the line of travel. The "popping" out instances were of such a nature that the reversal of direction (within the cloud and unseen by me) could only have been if the object came to a halt without decreasing velocity and reversing its direction with no change in velocity.

This sighting is similar in many ways to countless sightings by others. But it has components that haunt me to this day, above the reality of merely having seen a UFO, and these are:

(1) The seeming coincidence of some elements of this sighting. I saw it when it twinkled into existence near its apparent position near the moon. I saw it when it flashed and collapsed. I saw it when it started to move. Each element took place in fractions of a second. What are the odds of witnessing each of these short-lived events? My eye was not on the

object continually, for I was driving, and also looking at the contrail.

(2) The "why me" aspect. Number (1) above would be enough to make an observer think there are too many coincidences by half and that perhaps there was purpose behind the coincidences; that is, we were meant to see the UFO. This leads to even more unsettling questions: how could it be assured that we witnessed these events? We are not "experiencers" in the spectacular and dramatic ways of the abductee and have no connection with UFOs other than an intellectual interest, so are not "tagged" by them for tracking purposes. So how, and why, did this little unidentified object target us? The implications, to me, are absolutely staggering, and far too convoluted and fantastic to go into here.

(3) The behavior of the UFO. Why in the world would the UFO behave in such a way? I've read that UFOs will sometimes behave as though they are showing off. I wonder, if that were so, if we were its audience--how did it know we were there? Was anyone else out that evening who saw this remarkable sight and for whom was it performing?

(4) The cloud formation. What do I make of the cloud? This has been as important as sighting the UFO. Was this a construct of whatever was in the UFO? Was it a genuine contrail in a still sky made opportunistic use of by whatever was in the UFO? What purpose would there be in having the cloud as a destination, with accompanying gyrations through it, only for the UFO to return towards its original position?

This sighting incident is one of the more significant of my life. If I "believed" before (and by no means did I so believe), now I have the luxury of KNOWING, and I can forego the difficult stance of choosing to believe. And let me tell you that I was shook--I look on the experience as a milestone that there are things we know absolutely nothing about; there are things we haven't even dreamed of yet; that the body of knowledge we know as the sum of our culture and racial existence is child's play.

I'll never know the answers to my questions, and I'll never forget.

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Return to Tunguska

By BBC News Online Science Editor
Dr David Whitehouse

(Courtesy of BBC News Online: Sci/Tech)

June 28, London -- Scientists hope to solve the mystery of the greatest cosmic impact of the century by undertaking an expedition to a remote region of Russia.

The impact happened on 30 June, 1908, at Tunguska in central Siberia. With no warning, a small comet or meteor hurtling through space collided with the Earth and exploded in the sky. The impact had a force of 20 million tons of TNT, equivalent to 1,000 Hiroshima bombs. It is estimated that 60 million trees were felled over an area of 2,200 square kilometers. If the explosion had occurred over London or Paris, hundreds of thousands of people would have been killed.

The first expedition to reach the site was led by Russian scientist L.A. Kulik in 1938. His team was amazed to find so much devastation but no obvious crater.

So began the mystery of Tunguska: What was the object that caused such destruction and why did it leave no crater? It may have been a small comet, made of rock and ice, that was fragile enough to be vaporized in the explosion before it struck the ground. Alternatively it may have been a low-density meteorite.

To search for answers, the second University of Bologna expedition is about to travel to the isolated region taking with them a battery of high-tech equipment. One of the team, Dr Luigi Foschini, told BBC News Online that one of their main aims will be the study of sediments at the bottom of Lake Ceko. This lake is 8km (five miles) away from the center of the 1908 explosion.

The lake is about 500 meters wide and 47m deep.

"We will be using a 'sub bottom penetration system,' to make a structural map of it to decide where to drill for samples from the lake bed," he said.

At the same time, a "side scan sonar" will take ultrasound photographs of the lake bottom. A remotely-controlled, underwater tele-camera will also be used in the research.

Undisturbed samples will be collected by using a "box corer." Dr. Foschini hopes to collect micro-particles from the

disintegration of the cosmic body to determine once and for all what it was. They will also continue a search for particles preserved in tree resin. This was carried out on the earlier expedition in 1991. The researchers will also undertake an accurate aerial survey of the region and compare their data with that obtained in 1938 by Kulik.

The comparison between the 1938 pictures and the new survey should give further information on the direction of the trees felled by the explosion.

Some scientists believe that large fragments may have reached the ground before the main impact. If the cosmic body was a meteorite, then it may be possible to find these fragments.

A search will be made for them among the ground rocks of Tunguska using neodymium magnets together with a metal detector.

Classic UFO Cases

Each month, a different "Classic UFO Case" is being featured in the MUFON Arizona Newsletter

Highly Maneuverable Ellipse V. Red Light Beam

Red Bluff, California, August 13, 1960

Officers Charles A. Carson and Stanley [redacted] of the California Highway Patrol were on patrol near Red Bluff, California, at about 11:50 p.m. when they saw a large illuminated object apparently falling from the sky. Thinking it was an airliner crashing, they quickly stopped and leaped out of the patrol car to get a position fix.

"The first thing we noticed was an absolute silence," Carson stated in his official report. "We continued to watch until the object was

probably within 100 to 200 feet off the ground, when it suddenly reversed completely, at high speed, and gained approximately 500 feet

altitude. There the object stopped." It was an oblong or elliptical object with a definite light at each extremity. In between the red lights, about five white lights could be seen occasionally.

"As we watched, the object moved again and performed aerial feats that were actually unbelievable...The object was capable of moving in any direction. Up and down. Back and forth...It moved at (extremely) high speeds

and several times we watched it change directions or reverse itself while moving at unbelievable speeds."

Twice the object came directly toward them; each time it turned and "swept the area with a huge red light. Officer Scott turned the red light on the patrol vehicle towards the object, and it immediately went away from us. We observed the object use the red beam approximately 6 or 7 times, sweeping the sky and ground areas." When the object was closest to them, they experienced radio interference.

As the object began moving off to the east, they attempted to follow it. At a point near the Vina Plains Fire Station, they saw a second similar object approach the first. "Both stopped, remaining in that position for some time, occasionally emitting the red beam." Both then disappeared to the east.

Carson and Scott talked with several deputies at the Tehama County Sheriff's office who had also seen the UFO and observed the same maneuvers. The sighting lasted a little over two hours. The UFO was estimated to be about 150 feet in its longest dimension.

The case was investigated by Walter N. Webb. Carson told Webb, "I have been told we saw Northern lights, a weather balloon, and now refraction's. I served four years with the Air Force. I believe I am familiar with the Northern lights, and also weather balloons. Officer Scott served as a paratrooper during the Korean Conflict. Both of us are aware of the tricks light can play on the eyes during darkness. We were aware of this at the time. Our observations and estimations of speed, size, etc., came from aligning the object with fixed objects on the horizon."

(For more information, see The UFO Evidence, NICAP, Washington, D.C., 1964, pp. 61-62.)

10 Great Places For UFO Sightings

Courtesy of USA Today

1. Sedona, Arizona

The massive rust-colored swirls of rock that make this area so visually stunning are said to contain high amounts of electromagnetic energy.

"It's thought these same forces attract UFOs. A good place to watch for them is on the road to the airport on a high mesa." Along the way, you'll likely encounter new agers, crystal-gazers and other devotees of woo woo. "You're odd in Sedona if you haven't seen a UFO."

2. La Grange, Georgia

UFO sightings date to 1938, when a local teen reported seeing a domed saucer in broad daylight. "There have been dozens of photographs, videos and witness reports of saucers or tube-shaped ships, as well as fireballs moving across the sky." Among the prime sky-watching spots: Roosevelt State Park in Pine Mountain, around the lakes near West Point Dam and along the Troup-Heard county line. Viewing is best after 10 on weeknights.

3. Rachel, Nevada

Nicknamed the Extraterrestrial Highway by clever state tourism promoters, Highway 375 cuts through tiny Rachel and some of the Mojave Desert's most desolate turf. Nearby, the off-limits Area 51 is the site of a "supposed secret military base near Groom Lake, about 90 miles north of Las Vegas, and ostensibly where scientists have studied fallen alien spacecraft." Don't miss the Little A'Le'Inn, Rachel's only motel/bar.

4. Siler City, North Carolina

About 10 miles south of town is the Devil's Playground, a 30- or 40-foot circle that is stripped of vegetation. "(Some) believe nothing will grow there because it was a well-used UFO landing spot. Others say nothing will grow there because people keep trampling over it looking for a UFO landing spot."

5. Los Angeles, California

Head straight for Griffith Park Observatory, where a range of telescopes provides ideal stargazing on clear nights. "There's been on-again, off-again UFO activity around Los Angeles." Even if you don't get lucky with a saucer sighting, "you'll definitely see a lot of unidentified walking objects in L.A."

6. Gulf Breeze, Florida

In 1987 a contractor took some snapshots of what was purported to be a UFO. The photos' authenticity is still debated, but they haven't been debunked, either, and Gulf Breeze has become "one of the hottest UFO hot spots." Watchers routinely meet at Shoreline Park in search of the otherworldly.

7. Roswell, New Mexico

In July 1947, officials from a nearby military base announced that a UFO had crashed outside town. The next day, officials updated the statement, saying the object was an experimental weather balloon. That didn't stop UFO buffs, not to mention local promoters, from making the most of the incident — whatever it was. Today the town throws a yearly UFO festival and draws tourists with its UFO museum and shops peddling T-shirts with messages such as "I was abducted by aliens and all I got was this stupid T-shirt."

8. Hudson Valley/Pine Bush, New York

Waves of UFO sightings, "including saucers and boomerang-shaped objects hovering over the nearby nuclear power plant," make the region "one of the best sky-watching areas in the northeast." Unlike in Roswell, however, locals haven't embraced UFOs as a civic theme. Best vantage points are on Searsville and Drexel roads.

9. Cincinnati, Ohio

Reports of saucers cruising above the city date to 1947 (the same week as the Roswell incident!). Other alleged alien craft sightings have been reported over Cinergy Field, home of the Cincinnati Reds and Bengals. "If you're interested in UFOs and are a baseball fan, you're in luck."

Actually, Ohio is rife with UFO activity. "It's easier to list the Ohio towns that haven't reported a UFO than those that have."

10. Elmwood, Wisconsin

Residents commemorate a spate of presumed UFO encounters from the '60s and '70s with the annual UFO Days during the last full weekend in July. "In one incident, a resident was allegedly chased by a star-like object that followed her home, landed on the hood of her car and then flew off. Also, a fireball was seen there that essentially hit a local police officer's car and burned out all his plugs and points."

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